

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 MC-02 TRSE-00

EB-07 /064 W

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R 280614Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4913

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 11772

SECDEF FOR DEP ASST SEC ABRAMORITZ

CINCPAC FOR ADMIRAL GAYLER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, TH

SUBJ: AMMUNITION IN THAILAND

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION ON APRIL 27, FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER-SECRETARY ANAND INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE A DECISION ON THE PURCHASE OF THE AIT BETWEEN THE 4TH AND THE 16TH OF MAY. ANAND SAID THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT WOULD EXPECT ALL OF THE AMMUNITION WHICH HAD NOT BEEN PURCHASED TO HAVE BEEN RETROGRADED BY JULY 20, AND ALL NON-JUSMAG PERSONNEL WITHDRAWN BY THAT DATE. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THE MOVEMENT OF THIS AMMUNITION BETWEEN MAY 16 AND JULY 20 MIGHT RUN INTO DELAYS. HE SAID HE ASSUMED THAT IF THERE WAS SOME PROBLEM THE RTG WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE FINAL RETROGRADE BEING HANDLED BY JUSMAG.

2. ANAND SAID THE DEADLINE SHOULD BE MET. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE RTG RECOGNIZED THAT THE 270-MAN CEILING FOR THE MAAG WAS LARGER THAN THE U.S. WOULD REQUIRE. HE SAID THE RTG WOULD SCRUTINIZE MINUTELY THE STAFFING
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OF THE MAAG TO ASSURE THAT IT DID NOT BECOME EXCESSIVELY

LARGE.

3. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF HAVING PEOPLE IN THAILAND WHO WERE NOT NEEDED, BUT THAT THE AIT PROBLEM WAS FAIRLY COMPLICATED AND IF IT WERE NOT RESOLVED WITHIN EXISTING DEADLINES, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE WORKED OUT. ANAND WAS NONCOMMITAL.

4. COMMENT: IT WAS VERY CLEAR FROM THE FOREGOING CONVERATION THAT ANAND IS DETERMINED TO HOLD TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE MARCH 20 AGREEMENT, AND DOES NOT ENVISAGE GIVING US ANY LATITUDE IN ITS APPLICATION. IN A SUBSEQUENT SHORT CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHAI, THE AMBASSADOR ASCERTAINED THAT HIS MEETING WITH THE MINISTER WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR EARLY NEXT WEEK, PROBABLY MONDAY, MAY 3. VARIOUS REPORTS WE ARE RECEIVING INDICATE THAT HE IS APPROACHING THE QUESTION OF OUR RESIDUAL PRESENCE FROM A FAR LESS DOGMATIC POINT OF VIEW.

5. SINCE DICTATING THE FOREGOING, WE ARE INFORMED BY MACTHAI THAT GENERAL KRIANGSAK HAS INFORMED MACTHAI INFORMALLY THAT SUPREME COMMAND WILL INSIST THAT THE USG LEAVE THE AIT HERE. SUPREME COMMAND CONSIDERS THAT THE AMMUNITION SHOULD EITHER REMAIN IN THAILAND UNDER ITS PRESENT STATUS OR BE GIVEN TO THE THAI AS A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL.
WHITEHOUSE

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